



Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 1988

CONFERENCE MINISTER -

ADVENT '88

It is truly good to be with you here in the Southeast Conference. You welcome us warmly; and Beth and I are grateful to be in ministry with you. So much has happened in these three months: Association meetings; many church visits; Board of Directors; Service of Covenant and installation; consultation with National UCC representatives to covenant about the future of the Southeast Conference. I wish you could be with me to hear the joys and sorrows, to see the many ministries going on in the churches, to be with others in particular struggles in their pilgrimage of faith and church mission.

You are the Advent people! - looking, expecting, awaiting, hoping. I am impressed with the responsiveness and eagerness at almost every turn. With such faith, our tomorrows will be God's future. In this Advent season, and end of the year, I reflect on the poignancy of Paul's message to (II Timothy, 1:1-14) "As I remember you in my prayers....", "I am reminded of your sincere faith - first in your grandmothers, and mothers, and now I am sure dwells in you"; "Hence,...rekindle the gift of God in you." To think of you all in your Churches is to remember your heritage, the faith given to you, and of the rekindling occurring throughout the Southeast Conference churches and members. The power of the Gospel! Thanks be to God.

The wholeness of the Gospel beckons us. D. T. Niles, the renowned mission leader, referred to three necessary conversions: to Christ, to the Church, to the World. No partial gospel! I am in the United Church of Christ because of a whole gospel) in which God claims my life in Jesus (the gospel is intensely personal); because the Christian Community is the Body of Christ to which we belong and are challenged to service; because the world is the object of God's love (John 3:16). Through peoples, environment and structures of society, we are companions in the struggles for justice, peace and compassion. With such a vision of a whole Gospel, God provides the resources for the mission.

I am concerned, friends, that the sinews of the covenantal relationship which binds us together in common support and mission in the

Conference and Associations, and throughout the world - have sometimes been taken for granted or misunderstood. Through all of our life in the Conference, we will be building covenantal ties. Let me illustrate one sorrowful note in this regard: the wholeness of the Gospel in which we all participate through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is sometimes minimal in our church budgets. In some cases, other individual activities and projects (all good, I'm sure) are better funded than OCWM. We shall come to know in the future the many ministries in which each of us participates throughout the world as we support our covenantal partners through OCWM. We will know the joy of sharing.

Now, as we embark into 1989, I pray God's blessing be with each of you and each of the chuches of the Southeast Conference as we look to a life of active verbs: walk, follow, journey, do, commit, love, grow, build, give, care.... Disciples living the Gospel!

Faithfully,

Roger D. Knight
Conference Minister

STAFF NEWS!

Welcome, Kathryn L. Foster, who began as Administrative Assistant/Office Manager, November 16. Previously, she was Administrative Assistant for the Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, and most recently was Assistant to the Executive Director of the new Presbyterian Denominational Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky.

With regret, the resignation of Kathy Martin was accepted. Kathy has been a very loyal Administrative Assistant for these past 5-1/2 years, has given loving devotion to the Conference, its tasks and its people. We rejoice with her in her promotion as a staff person with an insurance company in Atlanta. We will miss her in this task, but rejoice in that she will be helping and will be participating in the life of Conference activities.

David Laar has submitted his resignation as Coordinator of the Alabama-Tennessee Association, effective December 31st. He has served for over four years on a 1/3 time basis. Starting in November, the Church of the Good Shepherd and Fellowship Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) began a partnership ministry in Crossville where David is the new pastor.

Beginning January 1, 1989, Roger B. Knight will assume the role of Ala-Tenn Coordinator, during this time of transition in the Conference

OFFICE HOURS are now 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., EST., Monday-Friday. The telephone answering machine will be connected after hours to receive messages, and thus return calls as soon as possible.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

Fairfield Glade, Tennessee Community Church broke ground for their new sanctuary and additional rooms on Wednesday, October 5th and are aiming for a Spring dedication. We rejoice with the members and the pastor, Rev. Wolfgang Koehler. Fairfield Glade is a joint congregation of the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church, USA.

Chattanooga, Pilgrim Congregational Church - The Rev. James Smalley was installed as the pastor on Sunday, November 6th. We welcome Jim, Sally, and their three daughters to Chattanooga.

The church at Waverly, Tennessee is in the stage of applying to be a congregation of the United Church of Christ, has purchased 5-1/2 acres of land and have their 30x72 building almost completely constructed. It is a unique log construction, very attractive, located on the new bypass road at Waverly. The spirited congregation is served by the Rev. Tal Hartman.

Atlanta, Central Church has called the Rev. Dr. Stephen Sternier as senior pastor to begin February 1st. Stephen has been staff person with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in New York.

On October 30th, Herbert Young was ordained into the Christian ministry, in Valley, Alabama.

Huntsville UCC has voted to build a new sanctuary in 1989. Having celebrated their 25th Anniversary 2 years ago, we rejoice with them in this step forward. Jim Norris is pastor.

Lagrange UCC, Roy Bain, pastor, has voted to relocate. Plans are now at the beginning stages.

Robbins Parish - served by Ralph Galt and Len Stark

Deer Lodge - served by Clifton Scott

On October 9th, Fred Nixon was installed as pastor of the First Congregational Church of Savannah.

On November 20th, the Rev. James Smart was installed as pastor of the Lanett, Alabama Congregational Christian Church at 3:00 p.m.

Atlanta United Church of Christ closed on its loan to finish the interior of the church on October 6th. They hope to complete the building in December. Dedication is being planned for the early part of 1989.

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MEETING

A special recognition ceremony was held on Saturday night, October 8, 1988, to honor seven women within the Conference. Each woman has served the United Church of Christ through the local, association, conference and wider church. Each woman is to be commended for her years of dedicated service.

We give thanks to these women and all they have given to others:

June Bell, Atlanta, GA

Dorothea Bowling, Gatlinburg, TN

Carol Jean Delcher, Atlanta, GA

Mary Marshall, Montgomery, AL

Virginia McCamey, Dawsonville, GA

Pat McJunkins, Monticello, GA

Jewel Simon, Atlanta, GA

OCWM - THE END OF THE YEAR!

Congregations and individuals - If you can, please send \$ for our Church's Wider Mission, to help balance the books in the Southeast Conference, to meet our goal for the national and worldwide missions:

. Churches that have sent nothing, send for OCWM

. Go a second mile with a special effort!

You may want to send before the BOOKS CLOSE JANUARY 16, 1988.

CELEBRATE THE COVENANT & INSTALLATION OF ROGER KNIGHT

On November 19, churches and pastors gathered at 1st Congregational Church, Atlanta and expressed their commitment to the covenant that binds us together in Jesus Christ's Church. The Rev. Dr. Reuben Shears spoke eloquently of "Getting Closer to God", referring to Moses' relationship with God and his leadership of the people; but then of God's desire to be close with all the people, directly.

Roger Knight was installed as Conference Minister. Part of that covenant was:

Roger Duayne Knight, seeing that you are called to ministry by the grace of God, and that the Conference of the United Church of Christ has been led to call you as its Conference Minister, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ?

CONFERENCE MINISTER RESPONSE

I am willing, and I promise to serve this Conference faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office of Conference Minister.

APPRECIATION TO:

Planning Committee — F. Thomas, J. Cummings, C. J. Delcher, Essie Holman, R. Knight, J. H. Grigsby

First Congregational Church — hosting this event

Choir Members — from our Churches

Dr. Gordon Tyler, organist, First Congregational Church

Dr. Roland Yates, choir director

The Rev. George Thomas, Senior Pastor, First Congregational Church

Ms. Jane Cummings, member, Search Committee

The Rev. Sandye Mullins, Assistant Conference Minister

The Rev. David Loar, Alabama-Tennessee Association Coordinator

Ms. Beth Knight, Commissioned Minister - UCC

Dr. Reuben A. Shears II, Senior Pastor, Congregational Church of Park Manor, Chicago; former Executive Director of the Office for Church Life and Leadership

The Rev. Richard Woodward, Midway Congregational Church, Georgia; member of CCC Executive Council

Akilia Rashida Morgan, Southeast Conference Youth Council

Ms. Barbara Everett, Southeast Conference Moderator, Chairperson, Board of Directors

Franklin Thomas, Chairperson, Search Committee

The Rev. Carol Jean Delcher, Chairperson, Georgia-South Carolina Association Committee on the Ministry

The Rev. Dr. James Costen, President, Interdenominational Theological Center

The Rev. Dr. Rollin Russell, Conference Minister, Southeastern Conference

The Rev. Dr. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister

The Rev. Dr. Robert Noble, Executive Associate, UCBHM

The Rev. Dr. Norman Jackson, Executive Director, CAIM (Council on American Indian Ministries)

Ms. Dorothy Lester, National Associate, Office for Church Life and Leadership

The Rev. James Myers, Past Moderator, Southeast Conference

The Rev. Robert Sherrod, Moderator of General Synod, UCC

Dr. David Alexander, Regional Executive, Christian Church, Disciples of Christ

Dr. William Andes, former Southeast Conference Minister

Dr. Emmett Floyd, former Southeast Conference Minister

Dr. Donald Leiter, Executive Director, Georgia Council of Churches

Dr. Perry Ginn, Executive Director, Metro Atlanta Council of Churches

Thanks Other participants in the service included:

G. Thomas

Dr. J. Costen

S. Mullins

R. Russell

D. Loar

R. Noble (UCBHM)

W. Blankenhorn

N. Jackson (CAIM)

B. Knight

D. Lester (OCCL)

A. Woodward

J. Myers (Past Moderator/S.E. Conf.)

B. Everett

R. Sherrod (Moderator/UCC)

C. J. Belcher

Plus other ecumenical

J. Cummings

representatives

F. Thomas

A. Morgan

Thanks is expressed to the Planning Committee of F. Thomas, Jane Cummings, Ms. Essie Holman, J. Howard Grigsby, Carol Jean Belcher.

MEETINGS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MEETING / PLACE</u>
JAN. 14	10 - 4:00	Commission on Church & Ministry, Central Church, Atlanta
24	9 -	GA Council of Churches Festival of Faith, Macon
FEB. 18	10 - 2:30	Evangelism Training Workshop, Central, Atlanta
18	10 -	Ala-Tenn Executive Committee, Chattanooga, Pilgrimage

(Meeting Schedule Cont'd)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MEETING/PLACE</u>
MAR. 24-25 MAR. 2	6 - 3:00 10:30 - 6	Conference Board of Directors, Atlanta Conference Consultation with National UCC Representatives, Atlanta
APR. 21-22		Mini-Camp / Alabama
MAY 8-10		Pastors & Spouses Retreat, Rock Ridge Camp, LaGrange
JUNE 9-11		Annual Meeting, Emory University, Atlanta
June 29 - July 4		General Synod, Ft. Worth, Texas

JUNE 26-30 1990**EXPERIENCE 1990**

(watch for further information)

Video cassette on Preparing Taxes - developed by Pension Board will be available "on loan" from Conference Office.

Peace & Justice Network Regional Meeting - Baltimore in March - Ask David Loar, Crossville, TN, regarding information.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

AND

GOD'S SHALOM

FROM

THE STAFF OF THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

Roger D. Knight Warren Blankenhorn Kathryn Foster

David Loar Sandye Mullins Jean Hess

**SPECIAL MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE
WITH
ROGER KNIGHT IN JANUARY**

Roger would like representatives from each church to be present. News of the Conference will be shared; church insurance will be introduced; MOST IMPORTANT, EVERY CHURCH WILL RECEIVE A BOOKLET, with training and instruction, to develop the history and identity of the church - which is especially needed by the Conference Office. Please attend the meeting closest to you.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>FOR</u>
JAN. 8 (Sun)	6:30	Howard UCC, Nashville	- Nashville area
9 (Mon)	12:00	Crossville UCC, TN	- Central TN
9 (Mon)	7:00	Knoxville UCC, TN	- Northeast TN
10 (Tues)	7:00	Chattanooga, TN	- Southeast TN
13 (Fri)	7:00	Pyron Chapel, FL	- So. Ala. / N.W. FL
17 (Tues)	7:00	Charleston, Circular	- Charleston
18 (Wed)	12:00	Savannah, GA	-
18 (Wed)	7:00	Midway, GA	-
19 (Thurs)	7:00	Central Church	- Atlanta area
20 (Fri)	11:00	LaGrange	- East Alabama
20 (Fri)	7:00	Caddo	- North Alabama
21 (Sat)	1:00	Alexander City	- W. Ala. cluster
26 (Thurs)	7:00	Roanoke	- Cent. Ala. clust

To: Southeast Conference Office
From: Mary Brueggemann

RE: Women's Concerns - Southeast Conference
for next Newsletter

News and Notes

A successful Fall Retreat was held last month. Music was a highlight with the Rush Memorial UCC choir giving a choral concert and Beth Knight as song leader. A silent auction helped to raise \$650 for OCWM. The conference weekend ended with a balanced ledger and we returned rested, renewed with new friendships formed among us.

It is time to put the Regional Women's Retreat on next year's calendar. It will be in Florida, October 13 -15, 1989. Shirley Higgins from Trinity UCC in Athens, Alabama, vice chair of the Women's Commission is heading up the "Bus" Committee. We may need two buses to get us all there. Begin planning now for your women's group to go. Count on the experience to change your life and renew your women's group!

The Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society is asking Conferences for nominations for three lay women from each Conference to be honored at General Synod 17 in Fort Worth Texas in 1989. Please submit your suggestions to the Conference Women's Commission c/o SE Conference by February 1, 1989.

Don't forget the Women's Mite! We have learned what will happen when each person gives a mite to help others! Let's keep up the good work. 5 cents a day == \$18.25 a year. It can make a world of difference!

The latest issue of "Common Lot" has lots of authors from among us in the Southeast Conference. Peg Manon writes the lead article on life in the retirement years. If you haven't a copy, we'll gladly send you one. Write the Conference Office.

Women network very well. If you have done something interesting in your Women's group, write it up and let us know about it. Sharing program and activities of church women's groups helps us all. Let us hear from you today!

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